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The work should prove an important reference volume to ornithologists and invaluable to the sportsman of South Africa.— W. S.

Mathews' Austral Avian Record. No. 2.[1]— In this number Mr. Mathews gives brief diagnoses of 108 new subspecies of Australian birds and descriptions of the eggs of 137 forms. A few questions of nomenclature are also discussed: the proper name for the Broad-billed Sandpiper is shown to be *Limicola falimellus* Pontoppidan, and the eastern race *L. f. sibirica* is added to the Australian fauna. Vroeg's Catalogue comes in for further discussion and Mr. Mathews adopts still another view as to how it is to be quoted. He regards most of the names in the Catalogue as *nomina nuda* but where possible quotes them from there rather than from the Adumbratiunculæ and credits them to Vroeg![2] — W. S.

Oberholser on the Edible-nest Swiftlets.[3]— In view of the large number of additional specimens of *Callocalia fuciphaga* that Mr. Oberholser has been able to examine since the appearance of his recent monograph of the genus, he is able to recognize ten instead of four geographic forms of this bird. Of these *C. f. amechana*, from the Anamba Island, *C. f. ærophila* from Nias Island, *C. f. mearnsi* from Luzon and *C. f. tachyptera* from Guam, are here described as new.— W. S.

Clark on 'The Ontogeny of a genus.'[4]— In this timely paper Dr. Clark emphasizes the fact that systematists do not devote the careful study to genera that they bestow upon species and subspecies and makes a plea for careful analyses to determine "what genera are logical and valid and what are mere artificial aggregations, brought together solely for the sake of convenience." The origin and development of genera are then discussed as well as the effect of geographic and ecological barriers to their distribution.— W. S.

Wright on Birds of the Jefferson Region.[5] — This is a carefully annotated list of 188 species based mainly upon the author's observations during the past twelve seasons together with those of Mr. F. B. Spaulding.

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[1] The Austral Avian Record. A Scientific Journal devoted primarily to the study of the Australian Avifauna. Vol. I, No. 2. April 2, 1912. Witherby & Co. London. Price 1s. 6.

[2] Cf. 'The Auk,' April, 1912, p. 205.

[3] A Revision of the forms of the Edible-Nest Swiftlet, *Callocalia fuciphaga* (Thunberg). By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. U. S. Nat. Museum, Vol. 42, pp. 11–20, March 6, 1912.

[4] The Ontogeny of a Genus. By Austin H. Clark. The American Naturalist, Vol. XLV, June, 1911, pp. 372–374.

[5] The Birds | of the | Jefferson Region | in the White Mountains | New Hampshire | [vignette] | by | Horace W. Wright | Published by | Manchester Institute of Arts and Sciences | Manchester, N. H. | 1911. [= Vol. V, Part I of the Proceedings of the Institute], pp. 1–126.

The region covered comprises the town of Jefferson and portions of the towns of Lancaster, Whitefield, Carroll and Randolph and the northern and western slopes of the Presidential Range to the Crawford House Plateau. An introduction furnishes a description of the physical features of the region and the birds characteristic of the several areas. The changes wrought by lumbering and fire, now familiar features of all wooded country, are referred to, resulting here in the decrease in the numbers of the Canada Spruce Partridge, the Three-toed Woodpeckers, Canada Jay, Winter Wren, Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Hudsonian Chickadee and the increase of the Meadowlark, Yellow Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Wood Thrush, Prairie Horned Lark, Red-winged Blackbird, Field Sparrow, and House Wren.

The annotations contain many observations of interest and the list as a whole will prove most welcome not only to New Hampshire ornithologists but to many bird students from all parts of the country who are accustomed to visit the White Mountain region.— W. S.

Dill and Bryan on Laysan Island.[1] — This well illustrated pamphlet describes a visit to Laysan, the principal island of the Hawaiian reservation, for the purpose of investigating the damage done by a party of twenty-three foreign plumage hunters who were arrested on the island in 1910, after they had destroyed over 250,000 birds, largely Albatrosses. Fortunately the poachers had been able to despoil only part of the island and it is considered that with immunity from destruction in the future the birds will regain their former numbers. The report shows the same birds present as were recorded by Dr. W. K. Fisher in 1902 with the addition of Bulwer's Petrel, *Bulweria bulweri*, and the Sooty Petrel, *Oceanodroma tristrami*. Estimates place the present bird population at about one million individuals of which one third are Sooty Terns and nearly a third Albatrosses, *Diomedia immutabilis*, and *D. nigra*.

The narrative and list of species are by Prof. Dill, while Prof. Bryan, whose familiarity with the islands and knowledge of the previous slaughter on Midway and Marcus Islands, especially fitted him for the task, has reported in detail on the present and past conditions and on the best methods to pursue in the future protection of the birds. Mr. H. W. Henshaw has contributed a brief summary of this report to the Yearbook of the Department of Agriculture.[2] — W. S.

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[1] Report on an Expedition to Laysan Island in 1911. Under the Joint Auspices of the United States Department of Agriculture and the University of Iowa. By Homer R. Dill, Assistant Professor of Zoology in the State University of Iowa and Wm. Alanson Bryan, Professor of Zoölogy in the College of Hawaii. Bulletin 42. Biological Survey, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. Washington, 1912.

[2] Our Mid-Pacific Bird Reservation. By Henry W. Henshaw. From the Yearbook, U. S. Dept. Agr., 1911, pp. 153–164.